The Call Letter

May, 2023
Volume 49 #5

We're Pruning the Mailing Tree.

Folks who are not current with their dues will no longer be on the mailing list.

Renew Today

NEXT MEETING

May 13 at the Abernethy Grange

see page 3

CASEY RADIO AUCTION

May 21 at the Abernethy Grange

see page 6

NEXT MULTI-STATE SWAPMEET

July 29 in Chehalis, Washington

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment. Membership is open to all. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been in print since 1974 and is a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, restoring and preserving vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of most months at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all public meetings and functions. Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, restoration classes, radio shows, and radio sales which are announced in the Call Letter and held in and around the Pacific Northwest.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.

Society Officers

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Vice President Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360 635-2489) edtomp@gmail.com
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Radio Repair Mentors

Members willing to mentor small groups in Radio Restoration:

Blake Dietze	360 944-7172 Vancouver
Ed Tompkins	360 635-2489 Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639 Beaverton

May Meeting Notes

From your editor

The board is all set up for a meeting in May (May 13) at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. Part of each indoor meeting is a featured radio display where you bring the radio and share a little bit about it. Our "feature" for May will be radio memorabilia with a "4." If your radio or tube or test equipment has a 4 or a Four, in its title, brand name, or nickname bring it along. If memory serves, there will be a June meeting and the Feature will be "5". Plan ahead!

I hear there will be a "BIG" free table and a few items for sale, so come prepared to increase your holdings and enjoy the 'art of collecting' (it's not hording). Depending on preparation time we may continue our monthly restoration workshop from Blake and Mike.

It is also time to finally **Prune the Mailing Tree**. Our membership committee has removed the addresses of those folks who have not renewed. During the pandemic it was a little confusing to know if you needed to renew or not. Now we are back to charging dues every year in January.

President's Message

By Pat Kagi, President

We had a great turn out for the April swap meet in Aurora. A large part of that was the effort Franklin put into our NWVRS Facebook account. This account was inactive for years and now it has over 600 followers. I believe that going forward, we need to invest into social media to attract the younger collectors.

Make a date on your calendar! We will have an auction on Sunday, May 21st at the Abernethy Grange. There will be a lot of nice radios to bid on. At this time, we expect to add more items so that there will be something for everyone. There should be plenty of free table items from these estates before the meeting starts on May 8th.

Remember that we are still looking for volunteers to attend the Tesla City Stories live theater shows to represent the society and watch your emails for upcoming open homes!

The NW Vintage Radio Society sends May Birthday Wishes to:

Jake Austin
Ryan Backstrand
Clarence Boomgaarden
Chris Butler
John Cushing
Bob Deuel
Larry Gerard
Jeff Hutchinson
Damon Vandehey

If you'd rather not have your birthday recognized in the Newsletter please let the board know at patkagi@yahoo.com

1919 Home of Hawley Broadcasting Offered for Sale at $3 million

Designed by architect David Williams in the "Greek Revival" style for Oregon lumber baron Robert Lytle in 1911, the house was the most expensive residential dwelling in Portland at the time. (The Pittock mansion came in 1914.) The 13 bedroom house (with an added 6 bedrooms in the servant's quarters) was built to be the summer home for the Lytle family.

The current address is 1914 NE 22nd Avenue (changed in 1933 when the city reassigned all house number. At press time, no offers were pending.

In approximately 1919 the Hawley family, of pulp and paper mill notoriety, purchased the property as their "city home." Willard Hawley Jr. wanted a radio station and purchased a transmitter from Norco. At the time of construction it was the most powerful transmitter on the west coast.

Two 100 foot towers were placed on the residential property and the radio antenna of KYG was strung between them. Hawley Broadcasting Corporation lasted less than two years. In 1923 the KYG transmitter was sold to a group of radio enthusiast at Benson Polytechnic School and is known today as KBPS.

Memories of the April Swap Meet

Radio Servicemen's notes

George Kirkwood described a technique that he uses to give some transformer-coupled battery sets better sound quality. He disconnects the low side of the coupling transformer on the grid side and adds a paralleled 1 Megohm resistor and a .01 uf capacitor in series with the low side of the coupling transformer. This provides the amplifier tube some additional grid leak bias and allows it to operate in a more linear portion of its characteristic curves. (*tech talk by George Kirkwood in 2004)*

The May 21st Auction

Provided by Dawn Friedland

The estate of Michael Casey (1934 - 2023) provided his radio collection for this auction with the hope that each radio goes to a loving home where it will be appreciated and admired.

Michael Casey was an avid vintage radio collector and an enthusiast about philosophy, art and history. He lived a fascinating life and published two memoirs: one of his childhood in depression-impoverished North Dakota and the other about his service as a Jesuit Priest (available through Amazon, search "Michael Matthew Casey")

After leaving the priesthood at the age of 35, he had two daughters and started a second career teaching philosophy. In his retirement, he developed a passion for bakelite and vintage radios. Michael was an accomplished woodworker creating beautiful display cases, countless tables, cabinets, stools and boxes, incorporating bakelite handles & pulls in his creations.

In addition, Michael was an avid reader, art collector and bamboo cultivator. Michael was known in his community to make people laugh, always inviting neighbors to his home to share his passion for vintage radios.

His daughters hope the radios from his collection will end up on display w here they can be appreciated by enthusiasts who share the same passion for vintage radios as their father.

(There are more than 3 dozen radios to be auctioned.)

This is not a charity or non-profit auction. It is just a service provided by NWVRS.

Photos by Scott Thomas

100 years of technology

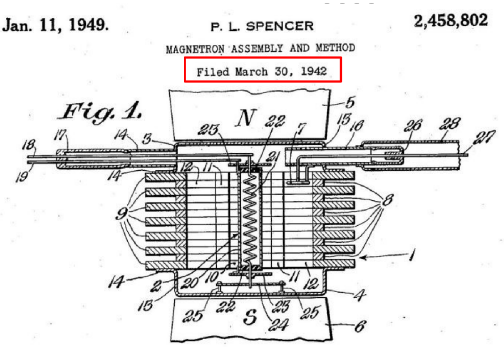
(this story written last year, is still a good read 10 months later.)

Raytheon Company, originally known as the American Appliance Company, was founded on July 7, 1922. Many think of it as an early manufacturer of vacuum tubes. Yet it has been said that it is not what they made, but rather how they made it.

Raytheon specialized in innovation. Tubes were required for the production and acceptance of radio receivers. They might have been considered a little "out of reach" for the home entertainment customers after the stock market crash of 1929. But innovation was how Raytheon perfected a tube rugged enough that it transformed the radio into a common and affordable device for every home.

Raytheon was an amalgam of Old French and Greek phrases that meant "light from the gods." They renamed the company from an appliance company to what had become its signature product: Raytheon Tubes.

Radio transmitters and receivers were enough for the booming market in the 1930s, but innovation, according to their published



This illustration shows Percy Spencer's method of manufacturing magnetrons quickly – an innovation that led to faster production of military radars and gave the Allies an edge in World War II.

history was never out of the forefront. Radar was a crucial tool in World War II. It depended on the transmission of radio waves that would bounce off of items and thus display where objects, boats and planes were. The Magnetron was the transmitter element of the device. Each Magnetron was hand-made and for lack of the device war efforts and particularly defense efforts were jeopardized.

Raytheon's chief engineer, Percy Spencer, devised a method to mass produce magnetrons. This made Raytheon the leader in Radar war-time production.

In the last 20 years Raytheon was recognized as the innovation and inspiration behind everything from space exploration to micro-wave ovens. A particularly noteworthy innovation was the Patriot Missile system which, as of 2021, is used to protect and safe-guard more than a dozen nations around the world.

Raytheon declares that the drive for 'era-defining innovations' is still evident in their work. Researchers, engineers and other innovators who are using the company's $7.2 billion research-and-development investment to make air travel safer, defense systems smarter; and space technologies more nimble and dynamic.

The company that brought us the "4-legged tube" referring to the method by which the inner workings of a early Raytheon tube were supported by 4 glass pillars, continues to develop useful and innovative advancements in electronics.

For the whole story and some inspirational images visit https://www.rtx.com/news/2022/07/01/raytheon-100-anniversary

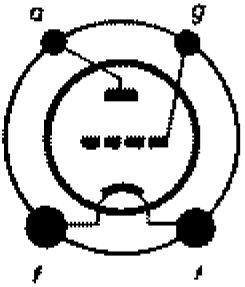
Tube of the Month – Type 45

By Mike McCrow

The 45 is a triode power amplifier, introduced in March of 1929. Development was started by Westinghouse, in June of 1928. It is a direct heated cathode with oxide-coated filament; originally introduced to be an upgrade for the type 10, and the 71A: giving greater efficiency and power with similar plate voltage. Operating characteristics are filament voltage at 2.5 volts @ 1.5 amps. Either AC or DC. Max plate voltage 275, grid voltage -56, plate current of 34-36 ma. Using a plate load resistance of 4-5K ohm, it can give 1.6 to 2 Watts of power in a single ended application. In a Class B Push Pull it produces multiple times more power.

In the years following 1929, the 2A3 was introduced. It was basically like having two 45's in one envelope (see tube 2A3 in the Call Letter Feb. 2023) producing 3.5 to 4 watts. Western Electric came out with the 300B, with an output wattage of 8.

The 45 having modest output may have been forgotten. One aspect of the 45 that makes it very popular is its pure sound. The fact that you have more power doesn't mean you have the best sounding audio. So even today the 45 remains popular among audiophiles and vintage electronics collectors.



Sometimes you need the original specifications for components in a radio. Someone has substituted a transformer, a tube or a rectifier and we'd like to know what the original one was. Browse through this site for catalogs and data sheets:
http://tubebooks.org/ (A word from the editor)

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that makes a
Full House

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Absolute guarantee—Satisfaction or money back without questions. An individual guarantee in each carton.

Advertising—Our 1924 consumer campaign carries liberal space in the leading fan publications.

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SHAMROCK
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Passing down humor

Those of you who collect or restore battery sets from the 1920s and 30s might have to explain this illustration to our younger "plastic radio" collecting members. It was published in Radio News in the 1920s.

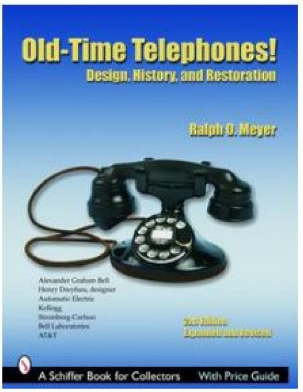
OFF TOPIC

From Editor Dick Karman

From time to time we will redirect some of our reading to a topic of interest, not necessarily radio. This is clearly "off topic."

Old Time Telephones: Many of us who enjoy early technology (vintage radios) also enjoy early Telephony. The technology of early telephones and how it evolved not only shows how electronics theories fueled other inventions, but how similar the circuitry in an old telephony is to an old radio. Should you want a definitive authority on old telephones and their repair and/or development, I recommend "***Old-time Telephones: Design, History and Restoration***" by Ralph Meyers. ("oh no" I hear you say, "another book, another $20") This book is out of print, and the North Carolina State University Library makes it available as a free download. The more than 260 pages are well-written, indexed, illustrated, and annotated. Those who dabble in old telephones might be interested in how all of the individual patents on telephone parts were merged and "shared" in 1949.
http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/resolver/1840.20/35318

As a side note, many folks who follow telephony speak ill of the government-demanded divestiture of the overwhelmingly large "Bell System" in 1984. They don't morn for loss of the monopoly, but they do grieve the loss of Bell Laboratories. Bell Labs gave us more than most people know: circuitry used the guided missiles, the space race, microwave communications, radios and modern convenience. AT&T did maintain the Lab, but the huge investment in innovation was lost forever.



If you'd like to make that antique telephone work, or just want to understand why there is a Bendex-type gear at the end of the magneto shaft, download a copy of Mr. Meyer's book, for hours of informative and enjoyable reading.

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